

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amendments.

d1 28. (Twice amended) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

- a. contacting a fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor, wherein said water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative is a tetraazapyrrole molecule, wherein (i) at least one of the four pyrrole moieties is fused to a single carbocyclic ring to form a phthalocyanine subunit, (ii) each of the other three pyrrole moieties is fused to between zero and three carbocyclic rings to form a subunit selected from the group consisting of an azaporphine subunit, a phthalocyanine subunit, a naphthalocyanine subunit and an anthranylocyanine subunit, and (iii) at least two of the four pyrrole moieties comprise a different number of carbocyclic rings fused thereto;
- b. generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture; and[,]
- c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

d2 30. (Amended) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

- a. contacting said fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor, wherein said water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative is a tetraazapyrrole molecule, wherein (i) at least one of the